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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

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Office of  
Governmental  
and Public Affairs

# Major News Releases and Speeches

April 2 - April 9, 1982

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# News Releases

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES WOOL AND MOHAIR SUPPORT PRICES FOR 1982**

WASHINGTON, April 2—Wool producers will receive support prices of \$1.37 per pound for 1982 marketings of shorn wool and \$3.977 per pound for mohair, according to Everett Rank, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Pulled wool will continue to be supported at a level comparable to the support price for shorn wool through payments on unshorn lambs, Rank said.

As in past years, shorn wool payments will be based on a percentage of each producer's returns from sales, Rank said. The percentage will be that required to raise the national average price received by all producers for shorn wool in 1982 up to the support price of \$1.37 a pound, he said. In 1981, shorn wool prices averaged about 95 cents per pound, he said.

Any mohair payments will be calculated in a manner similar to wool. After not making any mohair payments for ten years, payments were required for 1981 marketings and projected prices indicate payments may also be necessary for 1982 marketings, Rank said.

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## **USDA RESUMES STORAGE FACILITY LOAN APPROVALS**

WASHINGTON, April 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has resumed approval of Commodity Credit Corporation farm storage facility loan requests made by eligible producers on or before Feb. 8, Everett Rank, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said today.



"We have instructed our field offices to resume processing those loans received through Feb. 8, when we temporarily suspended loan approvals to reexamine the program," Rank said.

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES NEW POSITION TO OVERSEE MEAT AND POULTRY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS**

WASHINGTON, April 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service has appointed a deputy administrator for international programs to strengthen and unify USDA's programs involving meat and poultry imports and exports.

"There is an urgent need to more sharply define and manage FSIS duties and responsibilities in the area of foreign operations" said Donald L. Houston, FSIS administrator. "Under this reorganization, we can more effectively meet our import inspection responsibilities and at the same time facilitate the development of expanded foreign markets for U.S. meat and poultry."

Houston assigned Dr. Victor H. Berry to the new position. Berry, a veterinarian, was formerly deputy administrator of meat and poultry inspection operations. Dr. Ronald J. Prucha, a veterinarian who was formerly assistant deputy administrator for meat and poultry inspection operations, will serve as acting deputy administrator of meat and poultry inspection operations, overseeing the domestic inspection force.

Houston said the control and inspection of imported meat, which the foreign programs division oversees, has become a matter of growing concern and complexity during the last several years. Last August, FSIS inspectors discovered illegal shipments of horse and kangaroo meat from Australia which led to the impoundment of 66 million pounds of product from that country.

As recently as March 26, FSIS announced that four Costa Rican meat plants would be removed from the list of approved exporters to the United States because they were shipping adulterated product to this country.

"These are just two highly visible instances where FSIS stepped in to ensure a safe and wholesome supply of imported meat for consumers," Houston said.

In addition to the foreign programs division, the export coordination staff and the veterinary attache will report to Berry. The export coordination staff provides assistance to the meat and poultry industry in meeting the exporting requirements of foreign markets.

This group has helped maintain and open foreign export markets for U.S. meat and poultry firms by overcoming trade restrictions based on unrealistic or unnecessary health and inspection requirements, Houston said.

The veterinary attache represents U.S. interests to the European Economic Community.

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## **1981 WOOL PAYMENTS ESTIMATED AT \$41.9 MILLION, MOHAIR PAYMENTS AT \$1.6 MILLION**

WASHINGTON, April 5—Sheep producers will receive about \$41.9 million in federal incentive payments on wool they sold in 1981, while mohair producers will receive about \$1.6 million.

According to Everett Rank, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, mohair payments are being made for the first time since 1971.

The 1981 national average market price for shorn wool was 94.5 cents a pound, 40.5 cents less than the \$1.35 per pound support price, Rank said. Dividing the difference (40.5 cents) by the average market price (94.5 cents) results in a 1981 payment rate of 42.9 percent, compared with a payment rate of 39.6 percent in 1980, he said. The payment rate is the amount required to bring the average market price up to the support price.

For mohair, the 1981 average market price was \$3.50 and the support price \$3.72, making the payment rate 22 cents per pound, or 6.3 percent, Rank said.

The wool and mohair programs encourage the production of higher quality fibers because the more producers receive from sales, the more

they receive in government incentive payments. Producer payments are determined by multiplying the payment rates (42.9 percent and 6.3 percent) times the net dollar return received by producers from wool and mohair sales.

Producers will receive \$1.62 per hundredweight in federal payments for unshorn lambs they sold or slaughtered in 1981. This payment is to compensate growers for wool on live lambs they marketed. The payment is based on the shorn wool payment rate, the average weight of wool per hundredweight of lambs and the price of lamb's wool relative to the national average price for shorn wool, Rank said.

Incentive payment checks are prepared by USDA's Kansas City Management Field Office. When payments are computed, the office withholds 2-1/2 cents a pound from wool payments and 12-1/2 cents per hundredweight from lamb payments. This money later is forwarded to the American Sheep Producers' Council to finance advertising, sales promotion and related market development activities. No deductions are authorized from mohair payments.

These wool and lamb deductions were approved by a 75.3 percent favorable vote by sheep producers voting in a referendum in August 1978.

Payments will be made soon through county offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Rank said.

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## **USDA REASSIGNMENTS ANNOUNCED**

WASHINGTON, April 5—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today announced several personnel changes within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The changes include:

— Alan Tracy, general sales manager and associate administrator of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, becomes deputy under secretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs. He will replace Thomas A. Hammer, who will return to private business.



— Melvin E. Sims, who has been chairman of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation since August 1981, replaces Tracy as general sales manager and associate administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

— Merritt Sprague, who has been deputy administrator of the agricultural stabilization and conservation service, replaces Sims as chairman of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

— William Manley, deputy administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, will become acting administrator, replacing Mildred Thymian who resigned today.

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## **USDA ISSUES INTERIM RULES FOR NONQUOTA TOBACCO GROWN IN QUOTA STATES**

WASHINGTON, April 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued interim rules under which USDA will, with certain exceptions, consider nonquota tobacco produced in a quota state as quota tobacco.

According to Everett Rank, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the interim rules implement provisions of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981.

If marketing quotas are in effect in a state for more than one kind of quota tobacco, nonquota tobacco produced in the state would count against the quota for the quota tobacco produced in the state with the highest price support level, Rank said.

There is an exception to this rule, Rank said. Producers of nonquota tobacco grown in a quota state may request USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to inspect their tobacco to determine whether it is "readily and distinguishably different" from all kinds of quota tobacco. If the Agricultural Marketing Service determines the tobacco is "readily and distinguishably different," the tobacco will not be subject to marketing quotas.

Quota tobacco is produced in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Details of the interim rule appear in the March 12 Federal Register. Comments regarding the interim rule should be sent to James M. Davis, director, tobacco and peanut division, room 5750-S, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. Comments should be received not later than May 11 to be assured of consideration and will be available for public inspection in the office of the director.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS SUPPORT MORE TARGETING**

WASHINGTON, April 5—A majority of nearly 83,000 people filing public comments on a proposed new soil and water conservation program for the U.S. Department of Agriculture would support targeting more USDA funds and personnel to areas where soil erosion and other conservation problems are critical.

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said 60 percent supported targeting, 32 percent were opposed and 8 percent were neutral.

From last November through January, the public could comment on 20 separate features of the proposed program, which was mandated by the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977. Block asked for the public comments to help him prepare the final RCA report and recommendations to the president and Congress.

Targeting, now being tried on a limited basis, is a departure from traditional USDA conservation policies. It was one of 15 features that gained support from a majority.

Another proposal gaining majority support (53 percent for, 32 percent against, 15 percent neutral) was to require farmers to have conservation plans before receiving Farmers Home Administration loans.

Support on 13 other individual features of the program ran from 58 percent to 87 percent.

Three parts of the program received a fairly mixed reaction, without a majority either for or against them. Forty-six percent supported a proposal to set up new local coordinating boards, but 41 percent were

opposed. A new National Conservation Board was opposed by 46 percent but supported by 36 percent.

Agreements between governors of states and the USDA for conservation aid were supported by 32 percent and opposed by 48 percent.

Finally, two aspects of the program were widely opposed in the comments: state-level coordinating boards (61 percent opposition) and federal matching block grants to states that would cause reductions in other federal conservation program funds (64 percent opposition).

Block said many respondents added they were not opposed to grants to states in concept but did not want existing programs affected.

The USDA, in addition, asked for opinions on the three main program alternatives.

Alternative 1 was a recommendation of "continuation of current program trends." This gained 61 percent support and 21 percent opposition.

Alternative 2 was a "redirection" of the present federal programs by priority setting and targeting funds, but without a greater role for local and state governments. This received 42 percent support and 38 percent opposition.

Finally, USDA's "preferred program," whose 20 individual features would both redirect federal programs and add a greater local-state role, was given support by 43 percent, while 48 percent were opposed.

Among those responding to the invitation for comments were governors and other state and local officials, farm organizations and conservation groups.

Of the individual respondents, 62 percent were either farmers, ranchers or rural landowners.

There was a heavy response from people involved with conservation activities, as nearly half the respondents identified themselves as either board members of conservation districts, members of county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees or employees of local, state or federal government agencies.

Although responses came from throughout the nation, five states were especially active and accounted for more than a third of the total responses. They were: Kentucky, 8,950 responses; Oklahoma, 6,095; Texas, 5,279; California, 4,732; and Tennessee, 4,343.



Block said many who responded during the public comment period said they were satisfied with conservation services being provided by USDA but would like to see the assistance expanded.

Block expressed appreciation to respondents for taking the time to comment on the conservation proposals, saying, "We will carefully consider what the public told us as we make our final determinations on the USDA conservation program."

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**TREE PLANTING TO MARK ARBOR DAY AT NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY [12].**

BELTSVILLE, Md., April 6—A silver beech tree will be planted on the grounds of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library here [April 7] in observance of Maryland State Arbor Day.

Richard A. Farley, director of the library, and Paul Putnam, director of USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, will plant the tree in ceremonies beginning at 2 p.m.

"The creation of Arbor Day in Nebraska more than a century ago was a great conservation achievement for Julius Sterling Morton," Farley said.

Morton served as U.S. secretary of agriculture from 1893 to 1897. On Jan. 4, 1872, he offered a resolution to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture setting April 10, 1872, as a day for tree planting and named it Arbor Day.

The resolution was adopted unanimously, and, on the first Arbor Day, Nebraskans planted more than 1 million trees. By 1892, they had turned 100,000 acres of the state's wastelands green with trees.

Morton also was influential in getting Congress to pass the Timber Culture Act of 1873. This law offered free land to those settlers who would plant trees on their claims.

Throughout April, an exhibit entitled "The Greening of America" will be displayed in the lobby of the library.

Farley said that from the planting of single trees to beautifying public grounds, Arbor Day has become the occasion for stressing the



importance of agriculture and forestry and for the planting of seedling trees to reforest lands that otherwise would be wastelands.

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## **USDA SEEKS INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC ABOUT BARBECUE STANDARD**

WASHINGTON, April 6—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment on whether there is a need to modify present standards and definitions for barbecued meats.

Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said USDA has been petitioned by a manufacturer of barbecue equipment to amend the existing definition of the terms, "barbecue," and "barbecuing," as they appear in the federal meat and poultry products inspection regulations.

The manufacturer, Smokaroma, Inc., Boley, Okla., contends that the existing standards for barbecued meats allow only one way to barbecue, which includes several traditional methods associated with particular regions or localities.

The petition claims there is an inconsistency between the poultry inspection regulations that permit barbecued poultry to be prepared using dry or moist heat and the meat regulations that allow the use only of dry heat.

Smokaroma claims the existing barbecue standard is obsolete because it excludes many newly developed and more efficient methods of producing the usual characteristics in a finished barbecued product.

"USDA believes there may be other viewpoints on this issue and also that there may be other aspects of the present barbecue standard that are of concern to the public," Houston said.

In particular, USDA would like information on the following issues:

- Are the existing standards appropriate or too restrictive?
- Can both dry heat and moist heat be used?
- What types of heat sources are appropriate for barbecuing products?
- Are there certain characteristics expected of a finished barbecued product?

— Is the presence of a basting sauce necessary or sufficient to characterize the product as barbecued?

— What methods of preparation should be included in the definition of the word, "barbecuing"?

— Are there styles of barbecuing that should be recognized as having geographic significance?

Comments should be sent, in duplicate, by June 1 to: Regulations Office, Attn: Annie Johnson, FSIS Hearing Clerk, Room 2637-S, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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**BLOCK ISSUES STATEMENT ON CORN GLUTEN  
ACTION BY EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION [1-3].**

Washington, April 6 [Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block] today issued the following statement:

"I am deeply concerned and disappointed to learn the Commission of the European Community has approved a request to the EC Council of Ministers for authority to renegotiate the zero duty binding on corn gluten. This binding is a concession granted to the United States in the Kennedy Round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade— and paid for with U.S. counter concessions.

3 threaten [U.S. corn gluten exports] that in 1981 amounted to 2.7 million tons valued at nearly a half billion dollars. Such an action would seriously undermine the free trading system to which both the United States and the European Community are committed. I strongly urge the EC Council not approve the Commission's request.

"We have repeatedly advised the European Community that the GATT binding on corn gluten is not negotiable because we cannot accept any measure that would further restrict our access to the market of the European Community. The intent to restrict corn gluten exports to the EC is viewed by our agricultural community as an unfriendly

action. We are considering all appropriate steps should the EC unilaterally restrict imports of U.S. corn gluten."

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**USDA APPROVES SOUTH CAROLINA AND COLORADO  
FOR MARE IMPORTS FROM CEM COUNTRIES**

WASHINGTON, April 7—South Carolina and Colorado have been approved to handle breeding-age mares imported from countries affected by [contagious equine metritis] U.S. Department of Agriculture officials said today.

John K. Atwell, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said South Carolina's and Colorado's state regulations meet federal requirements for quarantining, testing and treating mares from countries affected by this venereal disease of horses.

South Carolina and Colorado are the fourth and fifth states to receive USDA approval. The others are Kentucky, New York and Virginia.

The procedures provide that a mare over 731 days old can be imported from countries affected with the disease only after she undergoes prescribed treatments there. If all tests are negative, she can be shipped to the United States for the normal port of entry quarantine, and then consigned to a designated state for post-entry quarantine, precautionary treatments and tests.

Pregnant mares must remain under quarantine until they foal, then both mare and foal must pass negative tests for the disease.

Contagious equine metritis is a venereal disease of horses. It directly infects only the mares. Stallions may be mechanical carriers; however, thorough scrubbing and treating their genitalia renders them free of the bacteria.

USDA lists these countries affected with the disease: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

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## **USDA 1982-CROP HONEY LOAN RATE HIGHER**

WASHINGTON, April 7—Honey producers will receive average loan and purchase rates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture of 60.4 cents per pound on their 1982 production, 3 cents above the 1981 level and the minimum required under current legislation.

According to Everett Rank, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the 1982 level represents 60 percent of the April 1982 adjusted parity price of \$1.007 per pound.

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## **APRIL 2 ACREAGE REDUCTION REPORT SHOWS 101.3 MILLION ACRES ENROLLED**

WASHINGTON, April 7—Farmers have signed up in the 1982 acreage reduction programs 101.3 million acres of feed grain, rice, upland cotton and wheat base acreage according to figures released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The enrolled acreage represents 44.8 percent of the 226 million acres of total base acreage.

Last week, USDA reported 73.5 million acres had been enrolled.

The signup, which continues through April 16, is required before farmers are eligible for program benefits such as Commodity Credit Corporation loans, target price protection and—for wheat and feed grain participants—eligibility for the grain reserve.

Base acreage enrolled through April 2 includes 47.1 million under the the feed grain program, 2 million under the rice program, 7.9 million under the upland cotton program and 44.3 million under the wheat program.

Farmers who sign up to participate in the acreage reduction programs for upland cotton, rice and wheat agree to reduce their base acreage of these commodities by at least 15 percent while feed grain producers will voluntarily reduce their base acreage by 10 percent. The acreage taken out of production will be devoted to a conservation use.

The 1982-crop national average loan rates are: barley, \$2.08 per bushel; corn, \$2.55 per bushel; oats, \$1.31 per bushel; sorghum,



\$2.42 per bushel; wheat, \$3.55 per bushel; rice, \$8.14 per hundredweight; upland cotton, \$0.5708 per pound.

Reserve loan rates are: barley, \$2.37 per bushel; corn, \$2.90 per bushel; oats, \$1.49 per bushel; sorghum, \$2.75 per bushel; wheat, \$4.00 per bushel.

Target prices for the 1982 crops are: barley, \$2.60; corn, \$2.70; oats, \$1.50; sorghum, \$2.60; wheat, \$4.05; rice, \$10.85; upland cotton, \$0.71.

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**DYNAMIC CHANGES RECOMMENDED FOR 4-H BY 300 DELEGATES FROM 50 STATES [1-3].**

WASHINGTON, April 8—Dynamic changes lie ahead for the 5 million youths in the national 4-H system if the recommendations of a grassroots delegation are carried out, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

Eugene Williams, deputy administrator for 4-H youth programs in USDA's Extension Service, said the recommendations—ranging from the use of computers to making 4-H relevant to more of today's teens—were made by some 300 youths and adults from the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Canada.

Williams briefly listed the recommendations as follows:

**Technology**—Create a national task force to develop a local, state and national computer project in which 4-H young people can take part. States would be responsible for producing materials for this program.

**Agriculture**—Emphasize activities that stimulate more livestock breeding and crop-growing projects, push for better visibility of soil and water conservation efforts, put a higher priority on agricultural education and build closer links with the Future Farmers of America, a nationwide high school youth organization.

**Relevance to Teens**—Make 4-H more relevant to the needs, issues, problems and interests of modern youths, especially the older teenagers. Specifics include more college scholarships, asking school systems to give credit for 4-H projects, projects for older members that

don't require record-keeping, increased sharing of new ideas across state lines and higher visibility for 4-H achievements.

**Leadership**—Train volunteer 4-H leaders better, conduct a national survey of present leaders, adopt new leadership communication methods for today's nearly 600,000 adult leaders, do more to recognize adult and youth leaders, encourage more teenagers to be leaders and involve more young members in leadership planning steps for 4-H programs at the local, state and federal levels.

**Worldwide**—Increase 4-H international activities. Because nations are becoming more dependent upon each other, many youths now think globally rather than nationally. This calls for an emphasis on the cultural makeup of communities, more training for 4-H'ers with international projects and more exchange visits by United States 4-H'ers and their counterparts abroad.

**Government**—Boost youths' knowledge and understanding of how governments are formed and make policy. Vehicles for this would be seminars, new activities and county workshops aimed at involving youngsters in government.

**Careers**—Start a new nationwide career exploration project for 4-H'ers. This would include a career education specialist on the staff of each Cooperative Extension Service in the states, the use of computers to locate jobs and closer cooperation with local units of government to create job opportunities for young people.

**America's Heritage**—Seek more support for beautification projects, urge programs in each state to focus on environmental needs, develop a project book on parliamentary procedure in each state and create a leader guide and members' manual for citizenship projects.

**Handicapped People**—Create special projects to help meet the needs of handicapped youngsters. "Some of these recommendations, made at the 52nd National 4-H Conference at the National 4-H Center here recently (March 27-April 2), can be initiated quickly at the local and state levels," said Williams. "Others will require more study before final decisions are made. Each of the delegates will make reports to 4-H groups and others in their communities."

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## **GRAIN EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO MEET IN OTTAWA APRIL 22-23**

WASHINGTON, April 9—Under Secretary of Agriculture Seeley G. Lodwick will lead the U.S. delegation at an April 22 and 23 meeting of representatives of major wheat exporting countries in Ottawa, Canada.

Policy-level officials from Canada, Australia, Argentina and the European Community will also attend the meeting, which is one of a series to exchange views on the world grain situation and outlook and to provide an opportunity for discussion.

Lodwick said discussions are expected to include prospects for world grain trade, policy developments in the respective countries, producer costs and returns, stock levels and the International Wheat Agreement.

The last such meeting of policy-level officials was held in Adelaide, Australia, in November 1980.

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## **USDA'S FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE STEPS UP PROMOTION OF FOREST PRODUCT EXPORTS**

WASHINGTON, April 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service is gearing up to boost exports of forest products.

"The recent growth in manufactured solid wood exports indicates that the prospect for continuing expansion is excellent," according to FAS Administrator Richard A. Smith. "Sizable amounts of U.S. manufactured wood products already are being exported to Japan, Europe and other regions, and it is certain exports of these products will grow, helped by their high quality and availability."

Smith said the first step in giving greater emphasis to manufactured solid wood exports will be the creation of a small team within the Foreign Agricultural Service, which will work closely with the forest products industry. The goal of the joint government-industry drive is to expand exports of U.S. wood products to existing markets and to penetrate ones as yet untapped.

Smith said the new staff will give greater emphasis to the forest products industry and formally recognize its relationship with the



Foreign Agricultural Service. Vernon L. Harness, formerly director of the agency's planning and evaluation division for foreign market development, will head the new unit, Smith said.

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## **USDA PLANS ALCOHOL RESEARCH PROJECT**

WASHINGTON, April 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will establish a demonstration project that will convert about 4 million bushels of low quality corn owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation into fuel grade alcohol.

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said the project will investigate new market outlets for CCC-owned corn that might otherwise spoil. "Converting low-quality corn into fuel grade alcohol would provide a market outlet to conserve CCC's assets in an acceptable manner," Block said.

The Kansas City Commodity Office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will issue an announcement inviting participation in the project.

Those interested in the project should write the Kansas City ASCS Commodity Office, P.O. Box 8510, Kansas City, Mo., 64114, or call (816) 926-6406.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY



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